

# THE WATCHERS

Things to Watch | Places to Watch | How to Watch

## Mr Warrington's Choices

### KS3 Choice (Y7-9)

*The Man in the White Suit* on BBC iPlayer

Absolutely charming Ealing comedy. Young Alec Guinness invents an indestructible fibre and is suddenly wanted by anyone and everyone. Look out for: Crisp black and white photography from the Ealing studios.

### KS4 Choice (Y10-11)

*The Fighter* on Netflix

Christian Bale, Mark Wahlberg and Amy Adams are great in this true story of a downtrodden boxer who has to overcome his insane family, a brush with the law and a lot of bad luck to win a chance at the world title. Look out for: The boxing matches, filmed on authentic cameras of the period.

### KS5 Choice (Y12-13)

*The Dead Zone* on Amazon Prime

Christopher Walken gives a haunted performance as the supernaturally powered character who wakes from a coma with the ability to see people's futures when he makes contact with them. Look out for: "The ice, it's gonna break!"



## Supporting Quality

Digging around on streaming services is a way of constantly finding some gems. There's also a lot of mediocrity. It's so easy to be drawn into just flicking through titles and just dismissing them. This week we've recommended the Ealing comedy *The Man in the White Suit*, a perfect film to watch on a lazy weekend afternoon. It's a reminder of the gentle charm of British cinema and the kind of cultural product we're going to need more of in the wake of this pandemic.

We've also got a focus on Mubi, a streaming service that cuts out the endless scrolling in favour of a smaller selection that has been put together with care for your viewing pleasure.

Mr W & Mr M-M.



## Mr Moreno-Melgar's Choices

### KS3 Choice (Y7-9)

*Hook* on Netflix

Hook is widely regarded as one of Spielberg's worst films. Given how many brilliant films he's made, it's fair to say that that's a high bar. However, this is still a beautiful adaptation of the Peter Pan story. Whilst some of the references are now feeling dated and there is often a weird 'filter' in the modern days scenes, the production design of Neverland is ambitious, beautiful and utterly beguiling.

### KS4 Choice (Y10-11)

*Fantastic Mr. Fox* - Amazon Prime

Wes Anderson's gorgeous, enthralling and unique take on the classic story but told in a manner that is entirely fitting of the fantastical protagonist. You've likely already seen this, so treat yourself and watch again, paying attention to the terrific mise-en-scene.

### KS5 Choice (Y12-13)

*iOrigins* - Netflix

I already know that some people will watch this and hate it. It's purposefully slow and full of philosophical meditations and the ending is only as effective as you want it to be. But I loved it. The works of Mike Cahill, Zal Batmanglij and their long-time collaborator Brit Marling are often obtuse, ambitious pieces on a small budget. And I think some of the most under-appreciated films of the last decade. *iOrigins* is the most successful of these films and full of things we need most these days: hope, ambition and resilience.

## Short Shorts

The internet is filled with places to watch short films that aren't just YouTube. That isn't to say that there aren't great things to watch on YouTube (we've hammered through all of *Every Frame a Painting* and you should too), but there's plenty more out there so let's see if you can broaden your horizons.

This week we're focusing on a director who made several short films before his career took off in features. Jason Reitman has directed *Up in the Air*, *Thank You For Smoking* and *Juno*. Before directing any of these he directed a series of really clever and creative short films. We're going to look at two of these. They are hosted on Vimeo, a video hosting site that focuses heavily on original work.

First up is *Gulp* - a film about the a man desperately trying to save the life of his fish.

Next up is *In God We Trust* - where one slightly foolish man realises he needs to do a bit more good in the world if he wants to get to heaven.

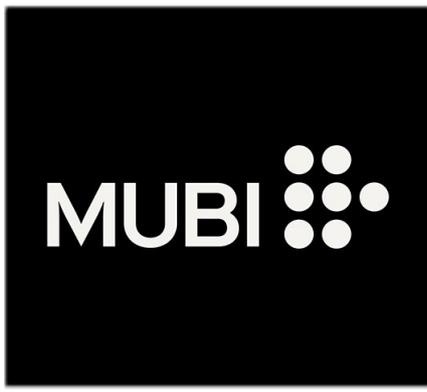
Look out for:

Jason Reitman's clean colourful palette, his films are very bright.

The quick sense of humour, often based on reactions and clever juxtaposition.

People trying to do the right things, despite all the obstacles.





### What Else Do I Get?

Mubi also releases films, available for about £3.50 per rental.

*The Notebook* is the daily updated magazine on the website. Filled with film histories, retrospectives and links to more information. We particularly like the 'Movie Poster of the week' features.

## Film Focus: Mubi

We'll try and give you a little bit extra each week to keep you busy/entertained. This week we have had a look at the streaming service Mubi, a website with a more artistic approach than some other services.

What marks Mubi out from Netflix/Amazon Prime and all its competitors. It only has 30 films on at any one time. Every day a film is added and is present for 30 days. While Netflix and Prime are chock full of a ludicrous amount of choice, enough to keep you scrolling endlessly, Mubi offers a 'curated' selection. That's a selection of films they've chosen, have a look at their 'Now Screening' page to see what's on there at the moment.

The beauty of what Mubi does is that the selection is of quality films. Sometimes they are a bit of an acquired taste but there's always something of merit in there. There's also a series of offers available if you look around. Currently it's seven days free but sometimes they offer several months at a discounted rate. I spent a while perusing their site and was offered a month free!

